



Our country...

The Maltese Islands

a unique and intriguing destination

Introduction

The Maltese Islands enjoy a unique position in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea – a location that means that we have served as a meeting place for the past 7000 years.

The Maltese Islands are a melting pot of Mediterranean culture; throughout our history brushes with different civilisations have left us with a rich tapestry of language, culture and cuisine. Malta has seen temple builders, the seafaring Phoenicians, St. Paul, the Knight's of St. John, Napoleon and finally the British Empire and each have left a mark on our culture.

Malta offers something for everybody, temples and beaches, stunning venues full of history, great nightlife and excellent food. In one small country you will find a wide variety of quality four and five star hotels with meeting facilities to match.

Flight connections to mainland Europe are frequent and short with almost daily flights to many of Europe's main airports. And once you are on the island our small size means that transfer times are kept to a minimum – a definite plus for short stays.

Geography, Land and Climate

Malta became an independent republic in 1964. The Maltese Islands consist of a small group of

islands – Malta, Gozo and Comino, all of which are inhabited, and the smaller and uninhabited islands of Cominotto, Filfla and St. Paul's Islands. The islands lie about 95 km (59 miles) to the south of Sicily and about 293 km (182 miles) to the North of the African mainland.

We enjoy a typical Mediterranean climate with daytime temperatures averaging 14C (58 Fahrenheit) in winter and 32C (90 Fahrenheit) in the summer months. Malta offers a warm and mild climate throughout most of the year. The hottest months are from the middle of July to the middle of September, but the high temperatures are generally tempered by the cool sea breezes. Statistically speaking, Malta has in the region of 300 days of sunshine per year.

Population, Language and Religion

Malta has an approximate population of 400,00, out of which an average of 30,000 live on the island of Gozo. There are two official languages in Malta: English, which is widely spoken and Maltese, which is Semitic although its alphabet and grammatical structure are derived from Latin. The Maltese are predominantly Roman Catholic, with incredible churches and

cathedrals that are the pride of the local population.

Time

Malta follows Central European Time, which is one hour ahead of GMT.

Currency & Exchange Rate

Today, Malta is a full member of the European Union and Malta has adopted the Euro as its currency.

Security

Malta was recently awarded the title of "safest country in the world" by the United Nations. Various factors were taken into consideration such as lack of natural disasters and also extremely low crime.



Malta 2014

'ATLANTIS RISING: Time Storm'

Malta Expedition with Kerry Cassidy

The Expedition will develop into an onshore and an underwater Odyssey featuring never before released information and expert testimony and will climax with establishing a direct link between the Knights of Malta, the mysterious Temple builders and the earth's pre-Vedic Past.

The Dolmen Resort

Beautiful located at the waters edge, the 4 star Dolmen Resort Hotel Malta boasts 375 guest rooms and 38 highly finished superior rooms and suites with panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea and St. Paul's Islands, Malta. All Hotel bedrooms and Hotel suites are fully air-conditioned, centrally, heated and have their own private bathroom, safe deposit box, satellite TV, direct dial telephone, radio, mini-bar and hair

dryers. The majority of the Hotel rooms have a balcony or terrace. The Dolmen Resort Hotel delivers uncompromising quality while engaging your every mood and aspiration of Malta. The culture and tradition of the islands seep into the fabric of the whole resort from the Neolithic Dolmen Temple to contemporary room design and exemplary standards of service, facilities and cuisine.

The Bugibba Temple, which is preserved in the grounds of the hotel, belongs to the same category of pre historic monuments as Tarxien and Hagar Qim in Malta and Ggantija in Gozo. These imposing sanctuaries, erected for the worship of a deity, which has so far defied a generally acceptable definition, constitute the outstanding achievement of the Maltese Copper Age, its Megalithic architecture.

Friday 18th April 2014

Day 1

Arrival

On arrival guests will be greeted at the airport and will transfer to the hotel.

Check in is accompanied by a non-alcoholic welcome drink and guests are left at leisure to explore the hotel and the surrounding areas.



Day 2

A Tale of Two Cities

Morning 9.30 am

Guests are picked up in the morning for transfer to Valletta accompanied by a licensed guide.

Today guests will enjoy a guided walking tour of Valletta, Malta's Capital city.

A Baroque City built by the Knights of St. John, Valletta is a living, working city, the administrative and commercial heart of the Islands.

The city is busy by day, yet retains a timeless atmosphere. The grid of narrow streets boasts some of Europe's finest art works, churches and palaces.

Walking around Valletta you'll come across an intriguing historical site around every corner: votive statues, niches, fountains and coats of

arms high up on parapets. Narrow side streets are full of tiny quaint shops and cafés.

Today guests will be visiting the Archeological Museum, St. John's Cathedral, the Grandmaster's Palace, The Malta Experience ending at Upper Barrakka Gardens to view Malta's unique Grand Harbour with its majestic bastions.

Evening 6.00pm

In the evening guests are picked up for transfer to Mdina accompanied by a licensed guide.

Guests enjoy a guided Tour of Mdina, medieval town and old capital of Malta before the arrival of the Knights...the Silent City as it is called is hauntingly beautiful with its rich tapestry of historical buildings and stately residences of the old Maltese nobility.

It was home then, as now, to Malta's noble families; some are descendants of the Norman, Sicilian

and Spanish overlords who made Mdina their home from the 12th century onwards. Impressive palaces line its narrow, shady streets.

Mdina is one of Europe's finest examples of an ancient walled city and extraordinary in its mix of medieval and baroque architecture.

Guests will then enjoy dinner in a beautiful restaurant set in an old Mdina Palace.



Day 3

Megalithic Temples

Morning

Guests are free to enjoy the morning at leisure.

Afternoon 2.00pm

Guests are picked up in the morning for a half day tour accompanied by a licensed guide.

Today guests will enjoy a guided tour of the Megalithic Temples Hagar Qim and Mnajdra, Misqa Tanks and the 'Cart Ruts' in Dingli.

The temple of Hagar Qim, excavated for the first time in 1839, dates to c. 3600 – 3200 BC. It stands on a hilltop overlooking the sea and the islet of Filfla. Just 500m away from Hagar Qim,

further towards the cliff face, lies another remarkable temple site, Mnajdra, set in a hollow above the Southern cliffs.

Much of interest has been unearthed at Hagar Qim, notably a decorated pillar altar, two table altars and some of the 'fat lady' statues on display in the National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta.

Mnajdra is probably the most atmospheric of all Malta's temples. It is a complex site consisting of three temples overlooking an oval forecourt. The oldest temple is a simple three-apsed building which dates back to 3600–3200 BC. The most impressive of the Mnajdra temples is the third, with its largely intact façade and bench constructed in 3150–2500 BC.

The Misqa Tanks – dug into the limestone near Mnajdra Temple and Hagar Qim Temple – are often described as large stone water cisterns, dug into the ground, by the Temple Builders. But there are some odd features about these tanks. They

vary in size, some seem to be connected together and they have feeder or irrigation channels. On top of the hill they are surrounded by petroglyphs, connected by lines and basins.

Misrah Ghar il-Kbir (informally known as Clapham Junction) is a prehistoric site in Malta near the Dingli Cliffs. It is best known for its "cart ruts" – a complex network of tracks gouged in the rock. The age and purpose of the tracks are still a mystery of Maltese history. In general, most archeologists presume that the site developed about 2000 BC after new settlers came over from Sicily to start the Bronze Age in Malta.

It is reported that the "Clapham Junction" nickname was given by an Englishman, who later reported that it reminded him of the busy railway station Clapham Junction in London.

Dinner is served at a local restaurant.



Day 4

A Day at Sea

Day at Sea exploring Malta's shores and filming underwater sites...there is strong evidence that the island's structures continue deep into the seabed..and the purpose of this expedition will be to definitely prove the existence of an advanced prehistoric civilisation which ended in a cataclysmic event.

The islands of Malta are dominated by Limestone formations, and much of their coastlines consist of steep or vertical limestone cliffs indented by bays, inlets, and coves. They lie on the submerged Malta-Hyblean Platform, a wide undersea shelf bridge that connects the Ragusa

Platform of southern Sicily with the Tripolitana
Platform of southern Libya.

Evening Free



Day 5

A Visit to the Hypogeum

Guided tour of the Hypogeum, A World Heritage Site.

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum in Paola, Malta, is the oldest example of a prehistoric hypogeum, the earliest phase dating to 3600–3300 BC; it is a complex of underground chambers, halls and passages covering approximately 500 m² on three levels, partly carved to imitate temple architecture and containing extensive prehistoric art.

Predating the Great Pyramid of Egypt, this unique underground structure of the ancient world was

built in several stages. Its real purpose is lost in the mists of time and the debate is still ongoing. It was here that the elongated skulls were found as well as the statuette of the sleeping goddess preserved in the museum of Archeology in Valletta.

Evening Free



Day 6

Marsaxlokk and the Three Cities

Morning 10.00am

Drive to Marsaxlokk...a typical fishing village in the south of the island.

It was in the "bay of the sirocco" (Xlokk) that the first Phoenicians landed and set up trading posts on Malta, during the ninth century BC. During the Great Siege of Malta, Marsaxlokk harbor was also used as an anchorage by the Turkish fleet. Overlooking the northern arm of Marsaxlokk Bay is the hill of Tas-Silg, which contains remains of megalithic temples of the Tarxien phase, with later alterations resembling the Ħaġar Qim model. Bronze Age material has also been found

scattered around the area. From the end of the 6th century BC to the 1st century AD, the hill was used as a religious site, notably as a temple dedicated to Astarte/ Hera.

We then proceed to Birgu, the old 'Borgo' dominated by Fort St. Angelo, where the knights first settled after they arrived in Malta in 1530. Fort St. Angelo was the headquarters of the Knights of St. John during the Great Siege of 1556.

We take a guided tour through the narrow streets of Birgu where the first Auberges of the Knights, built upon their arrival in Malta still stand, and ending with a visit to the Inquisitor's palace which will take us back in time when Church and Order vied each other for power and jurisdiction over people's lives.

Lunch at a waterfront restaurant where guests can enjoy wonderful views of the Grand Harbour and Valletta's Fortifications.

Afternoon

Interview with Richard Cambers' father.

Evening Free



Day 7

Gozo

Departure at 9.00am

Ferry boat crossing to Malta's sister Island of Gozo – Though separated from mainland Malta by a mere 5km stretch of sea (25 minutes by ferry) Gozo is distinctly different. The Island is a third the size of Malta, more rural and much more tranquil. Gozo is known for its picturesque scenery, pristine coastline and untouched country trails. Baroque churches rise from the heart of small villages, and traditional farmhouses dot the rural landscape. Its culture and way of life are rooted in tradition and yet open to the present.

Developed just enough but not too much, Gozo is a masterpiece wrought by nature and shaped by 7000 years of culture. Myth and reality meet here on what is believed to have been the Isle of Calypso in Homer's Odyssey, where the sea nymph held Odysseus (Ulysses) in her thrall for seven years.

The people of Gozo, still numbering just 30,000, have nurtured Calypso's Island into the beautiful place we know today.

Visiting Rabat built on one of Gozo's many hills and the hub of life in Gozo, also visiting the Cathedral believed to be built on the foundations of an ancient pagan Temple of Ashtarte.

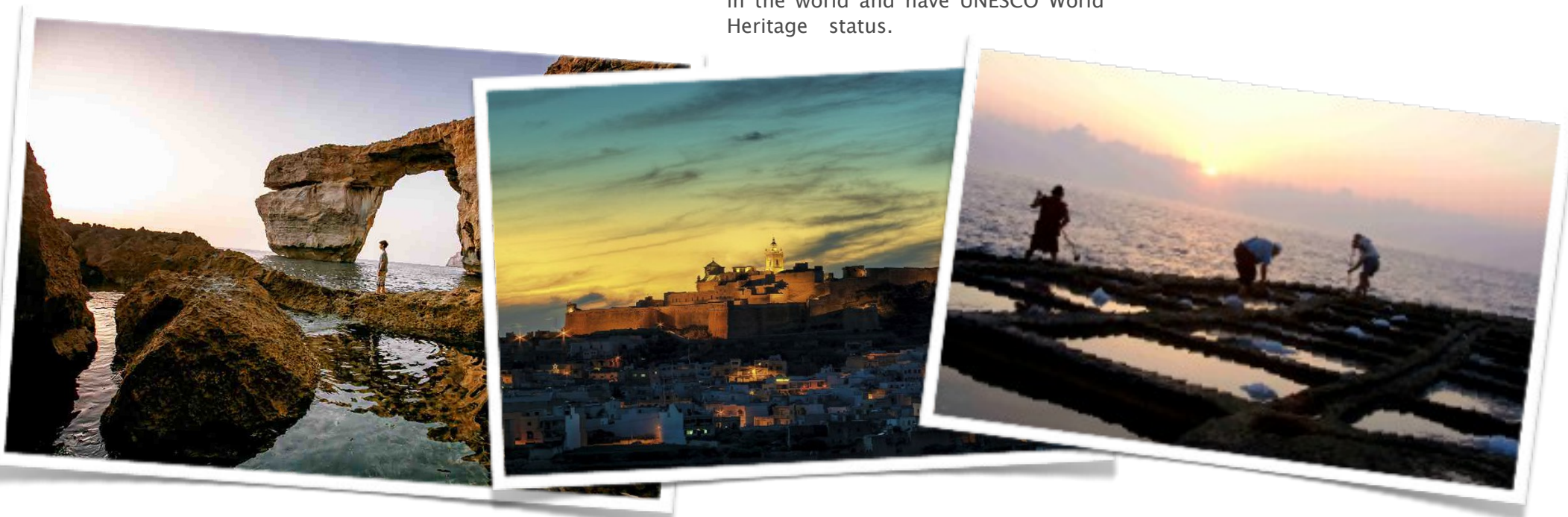
We then visit Ggantija, Gozo's best preserved Megalithic Temple. The two temples here are amongst the oldest free-standing stone buildings in the world and have UNESCO World Heritage status.

We also visit the nearby 'Brockdorf' Circle which is a prehistoric necropolis.

We stop for lunch at a local restaurant.

Drive through Gharb and Ta'Pinu Church, then to Dwejra and finally Ta'Cenc before boarding the ferry back to Malta.

Evening Free



Day 8

Comino Island

Day in Comino...Enjoy the pristine energy of this small but mysterious Island with its numerous caves and energy portals. The tiny Island of Comino, once the hideout of pirates and smugglers, sits right in the middle of the channel between Malta and Gozo. The unspoilt island is a haven for all those who love swimming, snorkelling, diving, wind surfing and other water sports.

Enjoy a swim in the Blue Lagoon, with its crystal clear blue sea surrounded by awe-inspiring caves, truly one of the most spectacular sights of the Maltese archipelago.

Lunch at the Comino Hotel

Day 9

Free Day

Guests are free to enjoy their day at leisure, making use of the hotel facilities or taking the time to explore the island at their own pace.



Day 10 & 11

Conference Days

10.00am to 5.00pm.

On these days we meet in the hotel meeting room for a two day conference entitled 'Time Storm' with the participation of many prestigious foreign and Maltese speakers.

Day 12

Departure

Following checkout guests will depart the hotel for the airport where they will bid farewell to Malta and fly home.

ALL DATES AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Evening 7.30pm

Farewell Dinner

